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PATENT

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Date

February 6, 2003

Stephanie Jansen

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Maurice B. Harding, Jr.

Attorney Docket No.: 501005.01

Serial No. : 09/865,928

Group Art Unit : 3682

Filed : May 24, 2001

Examiner : Chong Hwa Kim

Title : OIL-DRIP CATCHER

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicant made experimental versions of various embodiments of the claimed invention and tested them privately, on his own vehicle, more than one year prior to the filing date of the priority application. Applicant submits that such use was experimental and not public use within the meaning of § 102(b). Prior to mounting experimental embodiments on his own vehicle, Applicant privately showed a prototype experimental embodiment to a mechanic acquaintance, Marion Price, for the purpose of obtaining an oil pan to use for properly configuring a working embodiment of his invention. Applicant submits that such disclosure was also valid experimental use, being solely for the purpose of obtaining materials needed to reduce to practice experimental embodiments of the invention for testing.

Respectfully submitted,

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